~~SECRET~~ TOAC JATE VICE PRESIDENT

21 July 1959

TO: [redacted] 25X1

SUBJECT: Description of Specified Soviet Installations

Attached are descriptions of specified Soviet's installations which you requested by telephone on 20 July. Please note that comments on the usefulness of a visit to some of these installations are included, also in several cases alternatives within the specified geographic limits are suggested.

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Attachments:

Beloyarsk Nuclear Power Plant	(UNCL)
Sverdlovsk	
Sovnarkhoz w/Speech of Chairman and Orgchart Appended	(OUO)
Uralmash	(OUO)
Copper Mine	(OUO)
Ural Electro Apparat	(S)
Pervouralsk New Pipe Mill	(OUO)
Leningrad	
Admiral Shipyard and Atomic Ice Breaker	(S)
Okhta Chemical Combine	(S/NOFORN)
Moscow	
Aviation Factory No. 23	(S)
Novosibirsk	
Turbogenerator Factory	(OUO)
Sibselmash	(S)
Nizhniy Tagil Metallurgical Plant	(OUO)

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Beloyarsk

Located 50 miles East of Sverdlovsk. The site of a 400,000 kilowatt nuclear power plant under construction. It will have four graphite-moderated water-cooled reactors, each driving a 100,000 kilowatt turbogenerator. About three fourths of the fuel assemblies are to be used to boil the coolant, the remaining one fourth to superheat the steam. The superheated steam, at a temperature of 930° F and a pressure of 1,320 pounds per square inch, is conveyed directly to the turbines. These steam parameters are comparable to those in a modern power station and permit the use of modern turbines with high efficiency. Outstanding Soviet reactor experts consider that this reactor type is likely to be the best of those currently under development in the USSR.

The United States and Great Britain have not built power plants of this type. Natural questions to ask are "What advantages do the Soviets see in this type over the graphite moderated, CO_2-cooled British reactors?"

The only other large power plant of this type in operation in the world is the Siberian plant, at which the cost of electric power came to 8-10 kopeks per kilowatt-hour. "How much will power cost at this plant? How much of this cost is amortization of the investment?"

In the US nuclear power plants of a 400,000 kilowatt size might cost about $300 per kilowatt. "How much will the Beloyarsk plant cost?" Another $100 per kilowatt might be added to the US for the fuel inventory. "How much will the fuel inventory cost in the Beloyarsk plant? Is this included in the capital costs given?"

At Shippingport in the US, the 60,000 kilowatt capacity is a net capacity, with a gross capacity of 68,000 kilowatts. The other 8,000 kilowatts are used for pumping cooling water and other uses. "How much power will be used for pumping and other uses at Beloyarsk? Is the 400,000 kilowatt capacity given by the Russians a net capacity or a gross capacity?"

CITY Sverdlovsk

INSTALLATION SOVNARKHOZ The sovnarkhoz system was first introduced in the summer of 1957 in the most dramatic shakeup of industrial administration in Soviet history. The territorial sovnarkhozes replaced functional industrial ministries (for Coal Industry, for Ferrous Metallurgy, etc.) which had heretofore always been the top echelons of economic management. The Sovnarkhozes are in charge of the enterprises in their area which are of national as distinct from purely local interest; in turn the Sovnarkhozes report to their Republic's Council of Ministers.

The Sverdlovsk Sovnarkhoz has had a good record under the leadership of Chairman S. A. Stepanov, who has apparently been its chairman since the sovnarkhozy were first set up two years ago this summer. While various other sovnarkhoz have come under attack by the Soviet press and government during the past two years for poor management or mishandling funds, the Sverdlovsk Sovnarkhoz has had a relatively clean record. Indicative of its good standing, as well as of the great general economic importance of the area it covers, is the fact that Stepanov's speech at the June Central Committee plenum meeting was the fourth one given, preceded only by the speeches of the chairmen of the Moscow City, Leningrad, and Stalinsk Sovnarkhozes. (Summary of Stepanov's speech appended.) Stepanov thus is probably the principal spokesman for the Urals economic complex, which is one of the three largest economic complexes in the USSR. (Others: Central (Moscow outward) and Ukraine.)

Stepanov was appointed Minister of the Agricultural Machine Building Ministry, USSR, in March 1952. From early 1954 until May 1957 he was Minister of the Transport Machine Building Ministry, USSR. He was elected a Candidate member of the Central Committee, CPSU, at the XX Party Congress (1956).

CONVERSATIONAL GAMBIT: After two years in operation, how is the sovnarkhoz system working in your area?.....How is it fairing throughout the USSR, in your opinion?.....Aren't there too many sovnarkhozes (100+) for a manageable system?

The effectiveness of these measures is shown by the following example. At the experimental hydraulic section of the No. 4 pit of the Ordzhonikidze-Ugol trust, coal extraction has increased about 3 times, labor productivity has increased 2.5 times; expenditure of timber has been reduced nearly 3 times; and extraction costs have been reduced 35 to 40 percent.

The seven-year plan provides for the large-scale production of hydraulic extraction and hydraulic transportation. With this end in view, the reconstruction of 11 active and the construction of seven new hydraulic pits are planned.

In the course of seven years, 28 new pits are to be put into operation in the economic area. For their construction according to plan and to reduce the cost of work, completion of the comprehensive mechanization of vertical shaft-sinking and horizontal headways is planned during 1959-1960.

Having once again pointed out the great program for the further development of the coal industry, the reduction of the amount of labor required in the production process, the increase in labor productivity, and the improvement in the miners' working conditions, Comrade Dyadyk said that the achievement of these aims was beyond the power of the Donets sovnarkhozes alone. He pointed out the necessity of active help on the part of the Gosplan, the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and other sovnarkhozes.

In recent years, much work has also been done in metallurgy, (words indistinct) production and an improvement in the technical-economic indexes. In particular, over 500 projects and measures concerning mechanization and automation of production processes have been implemented. Azov-Stal workers, in collaboration with a number of research institutes, designing institutes, teaching institutes, and construction bureaus, have tackled the comprehensive automation of control of the complicated blast furnace processes.

A general plan for the comprehensive automation of the blast furnace process has already been developed; it has been decided to apply it in the blast furnace under construction at the works and to incorporate a universal computer. So far there is nothing in the world like this. Automatic devices will register, qualitatively and quantitatively, 78 factors which determine the course of the blast furnace process. The installation is to go into operation in 1960.

At the Stalino metallurgical works, the construction of an installation for continuous pouring of steel, one of the largest in the world, is about to be completed. This year work on the gasification of blast furnace production at the Imeni Ilyicha metallurgical works, and at the Azov-Stal, Makeyevskoy, Stalino, and Yenakievo works will be completed.

By the end of this year, the large-scale preparation of pig iron for smelting in open hearth furnaces by blowing a jet of steam and oxygen through it while the iron is in the ladle will be applied in the USSR for the first time.

The use of oxygen-enriches blowing, and increased degree of dressing of iron ore from Krivoy Rog, the lowering of the sulphur content in Donbas coke, and other questions which are ripe for solution must be tackled.

Comrade Dyadyk devoted much of his speech to questions concerning the modernization of equipment and the mechanization and automation of production processes at the chemical and coke enterprises of the economic area. Proposals have been made at the chemical plants of the sovnarkhoz which will increase the chemical output at operating enterprises about the target level of the seven-year plan.

The machine builders are also faced with many important tasks. In the current seven-year period, they must raise their output 1.7 times; labor productivity must be raised 68 percent, costs per ruble of output must be lowered 10 percent, and new high productivity machines must be developed.

Engineering works in the Stalino Sovnarkhoz are known for their wide range of output, which limits the possibility of creating automatic and even-flow lines and integrated mechanization sectors. Nevertheless, machine builders actively striving to constantly perfect their technological processes. In particular, they attach great importance to specialization of works. The normalization and standardization of components and assemblies is being carried out. Eighty-eight even-flow lines and five semiautomatic lines are now operating at works in the sovnarkhoz. One hundred two automatic and semiautomatic lines and 280 mechanized flow lines are to be introduced during the seven-year period.

The speaker spoke on a number of issues linked with further improving foundry work, perfecting the work of press-forging shops, modernizing and replacing obsolete equipment, and improving supplies under cooperation arrangements between enterprises. The staffs of enterprises multiply their successes. Dyadyk assured the CPSU Central Committee that the working people of Stalino Oblast will honorably fulfill the tasks which the party and the government have set for them.

Stepanov Report

At the end of the morning session, a report was made by the chairman of the Sverdlovsk Sovnarkhoz, Stepanov. He spoke of the great creative enthusiasm among working people in the Urals who greeted the CPSU central committee plenum by prefulfilling the six-month gross output plan.

Staffs of industrial enterprises and building sites have pledged to fulfill the seven-year plan tasks regarding output level a year ahead of plan--on the basis of the large-scale introduction of new technical equipment and increased labor productivity.

Hundreds of thousands of workers, engineers, technicians, and employees have assured the party's Central Committee that the people of the Urals will offer all their strength and energy for the fulfillment of the historic decisions of the party's 21st congress. The speaker pointed out that the Urals are maintaining their leading position in the RSFSR in the production of ferrous and nonferrous metals in heavy engineering.

This holds true to a considerable extent insofar as the Sverdlovsk economic area is concerned. Gross output here has risen 20 percent in the past two years, whereas in the preceding two years the increase amounted to only 13 percent. Comrade Stepanov spoke of the fulfillment of the important task of making maximum use of blast and open-hearth furnaces. The staffs of enterprises have at present achieved a coefficient of useful employment of the volume of blast furnaces equal to 735 per thousand, and production of steel per square meter of floor of open-hearth furnaces amounts to 8.05 tons.

It is the belief of miners and blast furnace workers that their principal task is to increase the quality of metallurgical raw materials through better concentration of ores, mechanization of mining work, automation of agglomeration plants, and modernization of blast furnaces. This will make it possible to increase the output of pig iron by another 10 to 15 percent at little cost, in the near future.

Considerable work has been carried out lately with regard to the technical perfecting of steel production. In this respect, as pointed out by the speaker, attention has been drawn to the experience of the Nizhniy Tagil combine where the best results have been achieved, compared with the average indexes of the country's leading enterprises.

We are aware, said Comrade Stepanov, that we have not accomplished everything with regard to blast furnace and steel production. There are still large untapped reserves. Metallurgists are working to eliminate shortcomings. They are making preparations to introduce continuous pouring of steel, and are implementing complex mechanization and automation of production measures. The speaker deemed it necessary for the USSR and RSFSR gosplans to speedily consider the proposal for the reconstruction of the old Urals metallurgical plants.

Comrade Stepanov then discussed the problem of one of the leading branches of industry of the economic area--nonferrous metallurgy. He noted that the initiator of a broad introduction of automation into ore mining work was the personnel of the Degtyarskiy copper mine but that their experience was still insufficiently used at other enterprises. One of the most important directions of technical progress in nonferrous metallurgy is the raising of the comprehensive uses of raw materials. The personnel of enterprises are working to increase cooper output to the maximum with the existing equipment. The nonferrous metallurgy of the area can increase copper and aluminum production on a considerably larger scale than provided for by the seven-year plan and pledges.

Going over to the questions of the chemical industry, the speaker said that the industry's enterprises in the economic area had considerably increased the output of production. The production of plastics is increasing. However, in this branch of industry of the area there are many untapped possibilities. At enterprises continuous processes have now been worked out and are being put into service which make it possible to automate them and sharply increase the output of production.

The enterprises of the Sverdlovsk economic area, Comrade Stepanov said, are producing heavy blooming mills, thin-sheet cold-rolling mills, powerful walking excavators, crushing equipment, large chemical machines, power mercury arc rectifiers, high voltage air and oil circuit breakers, trucks, and many other machines and equipment. The oblast party organization and the sovnarkhoz are aware of their great responsibility in providing modern equipment for the leading branches of the heavy industry ofthe country.

Most machines and equipment produced by the enterprises of the are are of modern technical standards. Rolling mills, walking excavators, and powerful presses made by the Ural-Mash works are good as the best model specimens. At the same time, it must be said, the speaker continued, that we are still making individual machines which lag behind the best models of the home and foreign engineering industry with regard to their technical and economic indexes. One of the causes of this is the weakness of experimental and trial shops. One should think about letting the sovnarkhozes construct laboratories and experimental shops with their excess-of-plan accumulations as well as with funds allocated for capital construction by the state.

In the current seven-year plan, the machine builders will have to develop over 1,200 new, highly efficient machines, instruments, and apparatus. The organization of institutes at the largest machine-building plants would accelerate technical progress. These factory institutes must become the main means of accelerating technical progress; they must become scientific technical bases in the leading sectors of industry where the creative labor of engineers and scientists will be combined in the best possible way with the workers' experienced.

The technical-economic council of the sovnarkhoz has worked out a seven-year plan for the mechanization and automation of production processes on the basis of proposals made by collectives of enterprises, construction sites, and institutions, so as to implement the decision of the 21st CPSU congress as quickly as possible. In this plan, special attention has been paid to the mechanization of billet shops (zagatovitelnye).

Questions on the planning of machine building and the specialization of industry enterprises are of great importance. Fulfilling the historical decisions of the 21st CPSU Congress, collectives of enterprises and construction sites of Sverdlovsk Oblast have come forth as the initiators of several well-known proposals on the improved utilization of internal production reserves. In the struggle for further technical progress and for the overfulfillment of state plans, the competition of the broad masses is developing and their creative activity and creative initiative are growing.

In the final part of his speech, Comrade Stepanov said that the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee plenum will arm the party organizations and all Soviet people with a new program of action to bring about technical progress and will mobilize all collectives of enterprises to fulfill the pledges taken to prefulfill the seven-year plan.

The morning session of the plenum then ended.

Tikhonov Report

The afternoon session of the plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee opened with a report by the chairman of Dnepropetrovsk Sovnarkhoz, Tikhonov. The Dnepropetrovsk economic area, he said, is an industrial region with highly developed ferrous metallurgy and mining. It accounts for a large share of the country's output of pig iron, steel, rolled metal, and iron and maganese ores. Machine building is likewise developed. In the time that has elapsed since the reorganization of the management of industry and construction, the creative contacts between scientific workers and workers of enterprises and building sites have improved considerably.

A number of important ferrous metallurgy, mining, and machine-building technical problems have been solved in cooperation with the scientists. Recent years are noteworthy because wonderful cadres of leading production workers, who have mastered new technical equipment perfectly, have grown at works, in pits, and at building sites; they are capable of executing the most complex tasks which industry has to tackle. A considerable contribution toward technical progress has been made by rationalizers and inventors. In the past year alone, they submitted nearly 50,000 proposals; the introduction of 30,000 of them has resulted in nearly 1.7 million rubles savings per annum. As a result, in four months of the current year it has become possible to raise the output per person employed at sovnarkhoz enterprises more than five percent. Sovnarkhoz industry prefulfilled the five-month (as received) gross output plan.

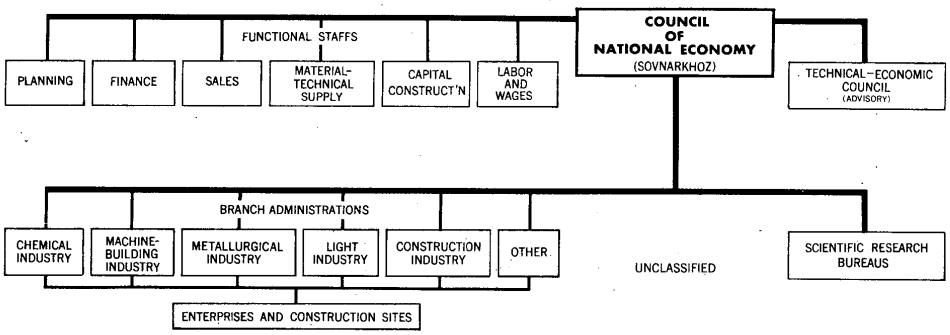
The speaker pointed out that considerably more could have been done since certain enterprises failed to fulfill their tasks. Even at enterprises that work well, instances of bad use of equipment occurred. A big section of the report was devoted to questions of the introduction of new equipment and of advanced technology in mining and metallurgy.

For instance, the miners of the Krivoy Rog basin have achieved indexes of underground work which exceed indexes for similar mines in the United States by almost 100 percent. Three and sometimes even four levels are worked at the same time, instead of one or two, which is world practice. The increasing level of technical equipment at enterprises has been an important factor in the technical progress achieved in the mining industry.

In recent years, mines have been supplied with a number of new highly productive machines and mechanisms. This has made it possible to double the 1956 speed of tunneling horizontal workings and to triple shaft-sinking speeds. Enterprises, jointly with research and planning-and-designs institutes, are presently engaged in improving the technical equipment of iron ore and manganese mines. More economical drilling machines have been prepared for serial production. A new type of flame drilling rig has been mastered. It increases productivity five to six times; powerful loading machines, which make it possible to reduce the time needed for removing rock by one-half or one-third are being developed. The use of powerful excavators and new continuous-action, mining, earthdigging, and transportation equipment has begun in open cast workings.

Of considerable interest, the speaker added, is the guarantee system of supplying pneumatic drills being implemented for the first time in the Krivoy Rog basin. In this system, the Communist works, which is the main supplier of the drills, guarantees the drills for a year. This experience has given remarkable results. It is now being more widely used.

ORGANIZATION OF A TYPICAL SOVNARKHOZ, 1958



SVERDLOVSK SOVNARKHOZ
(Available Details)

Chairman: S.A.Stepanov

Deputy Chairmen:

1st Deputy P.Sokolov
G.A.Karavayev
Krotov
A.N.Morozov

Functional Staffs

Production & Cooperation Section V.P.Klimentyev

Branch Administrations

Chemical Industry K.N.Bushuyev	Machine Building Industry V.N.Solovyev	Light Industry P.P.Gorbunov	Ferrous Metallurgy Industry S.A.Zhuravlev
Fuel Industry A.F.Yeshtokin	Construction Industry M.Shildkrot	Timber Industry O.E.Rayav	Electro-Chemical Industry Adrianov
Planning-Economic V.M.Pekarevich	Technical-Admin. V.A.Popov		

NAME — Urals Heavy Machine Building Works (Uralmash) imeni Ordzhonikidze

LOCATION — Sverdlovsk (56°50'N - 60°38'E), Sverdlovsk Oblast, RSFSR

DIRECTOR — Glebovskiy (1957); V.V. Krotov (1959)
Verinov Ch.Eng. (1957)

GENERAL — Uralmash, the largest engineering works in the USSR, was built during the First Five-Year Plan (1928-1932). By 1937 the plant had the capacity to produce 70,000 tons of equipment annually. Additions to capacity brought this capacity up to 150,000 tons by 1957. Products produced at Uralmash include all types of metallurgical equipment, particularly rolling mills; cranes; gas producers; mining equipment of all types, including large crushers, ball mills, shaft sinking and earth moving equipment; conveyors; forging hammers; hydraulic presses; and oil well drilling rigs. The bulk of the forgings and castings required in manufacture are produced in the plant's gray iron, non-ferrous, or steel foundries. Uralmash employs about 18,000 people.

PLANT SUMMARY — Uralmash has the following division.

A. Cast Iron Foundry - 60,000 tons cast iron per year
B. Steel Foundry - 220,000 tons cast steel per year
C. Non Ferrous Foundry
D. Forge Shop
E. Forging Press Shop - has 10,000 and 3,000 ton forging presses
F. Five Structural Shops
G. Large Mechanical Process and Assembly Shop
H. Two Medium Mechanical Process and Assembly Shops
I. Two Design Departments
J. Auxilliary Shops
   Patternmaking
   Maintenance
   Power

IRON FOUNDRY The cast iron foundry has six cupolas with capacities ranging from 10 to 15 tons. The largest piece cast here runs about 80 tons.

STEEL FOUNDRY The steel foundry has four electric furnaces of 5, 8, 8, and 13 tons. There is one-30 ton basic open hearth, two-60 ton basic open hearths, and one-90 ton acid open hearth. Some stainless steel of heat and corrosion resistant grades is produced. There are two ingot degassing units, one capable of holding 120 ton ingots and the other 32 ton ingots. The largest piece cast in this shop is 150 tons.

US COUNTERPART: West Homestead Works, Mesta Machine Co., Pitts. Pa.

CONVERSATIONAL GAMBIT:

1. What problems are you confronted with in the manufacture of rolling mills here? Won't you have to expand Uralmash to aid in meeting the goals envisioned for rolling mill equipment in the Seven Year Plan?

2. You make a great variety of equipment here. Do you think efficiency would be increased by specializing on a more limited range of products?

CITY Sverdlovsk

PLANT NAME Pyshma Electrolytic Copper Refinery

MAJOR PRODUCTS Electrolytic copper, gold, silver, and possibly other byproducts

DESCRIPTION The Pyshma Electrolytic Copper Refinery is one of the oldest refineries in the USSR. The plant was expanded in the early 1950's and now probably is the largest copper refinery in the country.

US COUNTERPART: The size of the Pyshma plant probably is a little smaller than the El Paso plant of Phelps-Dodge, which has a capacity of about 220,000 metric tons per year.

OTHER Considering that Pyshma probably is the largest copper refinery in the USSR, just how important to the country's total output of copper is the output from this plant? How does the output of refined copper from Pyshma stack up with that from Kazakhstan? Is Pyshma's importance as a copper producer to decline during the 1959-65 period?

Inasmuch as byproduct recovery of gold is an important source of this metal, and gold is recovered at Pyshma, just how important is the gold output of Pyshma to the USSR's total production of gold and to the by-product recovery of gold? And is Pyshma the only plant in the USSR recovering gold from the processing of copper?

CITY	Sverdlovsk
PLANT	Uralelektroapparat
DIRECTOR	(fnu) Shchukin
CHIEF ENGINEER	Pavel Ivanovich Larin
CHIEF DESIGNER OF TURBOGENERATORS	(fnu) Kostin

This plant is located in the northern outskirts of Sverdlovsk near the River Pyshna. It is one of the leading Soviet electrical equipment plants, producing, large electric motors and generators, transformers, switchgear and rectifiers. Almost all types of high-voltage electrical equipment suitable for use at thermal, hydraulic and atomic power plants, is produced at this plant.

In 1958, the design office completed the blueprints for a 300,000 kw hydrogenerator, destined for the Krasnoyarsk Hydroelectric Power Station.

CONVERSATIONAL GAMBITS

The Soviet press implies that a major current problem is increasing the production of generator in order to meet the Seven Year (1959-65) plant to raise electric power from 232 billion kwh in 1958 to 488 kwh. Interesting discussion might result from questions concerning this plant role in the solution of the national problem. Additional plant data is desired.

NOTE

A visit to URALELEKTROAPPARAT is more likely to require travel through the two areas primarily suspected of ICBM production than a visit to any other plant in Sverdlovsk. A visit to Uralmash should cause the group to travel in the vicinity of Plant 8, A former artillary producer, which is suspected of involvement in ICBM production. A visit to URAL Electroapparat should put the group in the vicinity of both Plant 8 and a second installation of unknown name and function, but believed to be possibly also involved with missiles.

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NAME Pervouralsk New Pipe Mill

LOCATION Pervouralsk (56°54'N - 59°58'E), Sverdlovsk Oblast RSFSR

DIRECTOR F. A. Danilov (1957)

GENERAL Construction of the Pervouralsk plant began in 1930. Technical difficulties in mastering pipe production techniques prevented the plant from reaching design capacity until 1940. During World War II the installation of equipment evacuated from the Ukraine increased output by over three times and Pervouralsk became the largest supplier of pipe and tube in the USSR. Little detail of importance exists on Pervouralsk today, but it is one of five major tube mills in the USSR and perhaps the largest producer of stainless and heat resistant tube. Also produced are ball-bearing tube, alloy constructional steel such as cromansil for the aircraft industry, and bimetallic tube. The major suppliers of tube rounds are the Zlatoust and Novo Tagil Metallurgical Plants. No Westerners are known to have visited this facility since World War II.

PLANT SUMMARY All tube produced is seamless. Production in 1958 was estimated to be 300 to 400 thousand tons.

PIPE MILLS At least four Stiefel mills are in existence producing seamless tube. Their sizes are 1 - 140mm, 1 - 160 mm, 1 - 220mm, and 1 of an unknown size. The plant has a very extensive cold finishing department consisting of one - 12 stand cold roll tube mill, 7 or more Rockrite machines, and 3, 8, 15, and 30 ton draw benches.

US COUNTERPART: National Tube Works, US Steel Corp., Gary Indiana

CONVERSATIONAL GAMBIT: This plant was on the itinerary initially proposed by the US for the American steel delegation that visited the USSR in 1958 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Edward L. Ryerson. The Soviets dropped the plant from the itinerary without explanation. A remark might be made to the effect that Mr. Ryerson and his group of steel specialists would undoubtedly have been much interested in the facility.

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ICE BREAKER LENIN

City - Leningrad

Plant - ADMIRALESKIY Shipyard, former KRYLOV Shipyard

Principal Products - Since World War II the shipyard has built principally Sverdlov-Class Cruisers and Leningrad-Class Tankers and Lenin-Class Atomic Icebreakers.

Description - An older Soviet Shipyard, Admiraleskiy Shipyard out dates the Russian Revolution. The shipyard was modernized and rebuilt in the early part World War II years and is now the second largest Soviet shipyard in the Baltic. With 10,000 employees and adequate ancilliary facilities, the shipyard is limited by the size of its two building ways, which are about 750 feet long.

U.S. Counterparts - The capability of this yard to produce cruisers, tankers, and large icebreakers puts it in a class with second line U.S. shipyards with regard to size of vessel and output. There is no single U.S. shipyard directly comparable to this yard.

Other - As the completion of the LENIN icebreaker is estimated to be somewhat overdue, it might be of interest to ask "Will this icebreaker lead a convoy across the Northern Sea Route this summer."

In the fitting out channel is an uncompleted Sverdlov-class cruiser. This cruiser was built by this shipyard and launched about mid-1953. There is no evidence of scrapping this vessel and there has been much speculation that it will be completed as

a missile launching cruiser, however, there is no evidence to support this theory. As there are three other uncompleted Sverdlov cruisers in Leningrad, it would be of interest to hear Soviet comment on the future of this vessel.

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